

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-15 and 20 were rejected.

Claims 16-19 were objected to.

Claims 1, 8, 11-13, 18 and 20 are amended herein.

Claims 6, 10 and 15 are cancelled.

I. 35 USC §101 Claim Rejections

Independent claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claim has been amended in accord with the apparent suggestion of the Office Action, and is now believed to be clearly directed to patentable subject matter. Withdrawal of the §101 rejection of claim 20 is accordingly respectfully requested.

II. 35 USC §112 Claim Rejections

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of those claims has been amended to eliminate the term “sufficiently high” which was indicated to be the basis for this indefiniteness rejection. As so amended, the basis for the rejection is believed to have been met and overcome. Withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claims 11 and 12 is accordingly respectfully requested.

III. 35 USC §102/§103 Claim Rejections

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC §102 or 35 USC §103 as being either anticipated by Manning *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,578) or as being unpatentable over Manning alone or Manning in combination with one or more cited secondary references. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration by the Examiner.

Each of the independent claims has been amended to incorporate a limitation from a now-cancelled dependent claim. Although Applicants acknowledge that the dependent claims from which the amendment limitations were drawn were each rejected under §103, they have reviewed the art and submit that the amended claims taken as a whole cannot be found to be taught by a reasonable construction of the art combination cited against those dependent claims. Withdrawal of the art rejections of claims 1-15 is accordingly respectfully requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Dependent claims 16-19 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for providing this indication of allowable subject matter, but believe that amended independent claim 13, which serves as the base claim for these allowable dependent claims, is also allowable over the art of record, for the reasons indicated above. Accordingly, the Applicants have determined not to present any new independent claims directed to those allowable dependent claims at this time.

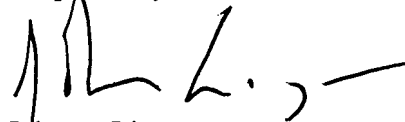
V. Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejection basis herein, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application now stands in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Please address all correspondence to John A. Ligon, Law Office of John Ligon, P.O. Box 281, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. Telephone calls should be made to the undersigned at (732) 872-3330.

Please charge any fees due in respect to this amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-1944.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Ligon
Reg. No. 35,938
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: September 17, 2007

Law Office of John Ligon
PO Box 281
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716
732 872-3330

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on September 17, 2007.

By:


John A. Ligon